

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 9, 10, 23, 24, 25, 27 and ADD new claims 30-34 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction, comprising:

a control unit for changing an operation mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time said pointing device is operated,

wherein said control unit determines a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen according to said operation mode, ~~and defines the direction in advance in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen, as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated and has a moving amount adjusting means for moving said operation object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in the menu representation on the display screen in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period~~ to limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen.

2 – 8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A pointing device according to ~~claim 1~~claim 30, wherein said moving amount adjusting means moves said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device takes the maximum value.

10. (Currently Amended) A pointing device according to ~~claim 1~~claim 30, wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

11-16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) A mobile telephone comprising a pointing device according to claim 1.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone comprising a pointing device according to claim 1.

20. (Original) A mobile telephone according to claim 17, wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Original) A mobile telephone according to claim 19, wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction, comprising the controlling step of:

changing an operational mode of said pointing device in advance according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time said pointing device is operated,

wherein in said controlling step, a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen is determined according to said operation mode, ~~and said direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen is defined as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated and has a moving amount adjusting means for moving said operation object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in the menu representation on the display screen in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period to limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen.~~

24. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a pointing device according to claim 2331, wherein the pointing device can be operated to move said operational object at any speed, and wherein

said controlling step has the moving amount adjusting step of moving said operational object by a constant step value when said pointing device is operated in a predetermined operational mode.

25. (Currently Amended) A mobile telephone, comprising:

a pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction,

a control unit for changing an operation mode in advance of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time said pointing device is operated,

wherein said control unit determines a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen according to said operation mode, ~~and defines the direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen, as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated and has a moving amount adjusting means for moving said operation object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in the menu representation on the display screen in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period~~ to limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) A mobile telephone according to claim 2532, wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device takes the maximum value.

28. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone according to claim 27, wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

29. (Previously Presented) A mobile telephone according to claim 25, wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone.

30. (New) A mobile telephone according to claim 1, wherein said control unit defines the direction in advance in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen, as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated and has a moving amount adjusting means for moving said operation object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in a menu representation on the display screen in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period.

31. (New) A mobile telephone according to claim 23, wherein said direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen is defined as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated and has a moving amount adjusting means for moving said operation object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in the menu representation on the display screen in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period.

32. (New) A mobile telephone according to claim 25, wherein said control unit defines the direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen, as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated and has a moving amount adjusting means for moving said operation object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in the menu representation on the display screen in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period.

33. (New) A pointing device according to claim 1, wherein when said display screen displays icons, the movement of the operational object is limited to only the direction in which the icons are arranged.

34. (New) A pointing device according to claim 1, wherein based on the contents displayed on said display screen, the movement of the operational object is limited to one or more of horizontal, vertical or diagonal directions on the display screen.